(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) Sexually Transmitted Disease was covered under the National Health Programme during the second five year plan.

Till the close of the Fifth Five Year Plan, drug Benzathine Pencillin was supplied free of cost to all the S.T.D. Clinics in the States/U.T.s'. However from the Sixth Five Year Plan onwards, the STD Control Programme was transferred to the State Governments as a part of health care measures. A revised Central Plan for STD Control Programme was initiated during the Sixth Five Year Plan for teaching, training and research etc. in the field of STD.

The State Governments have been making arrangements for providing medicines for the treatment of STDs as a part of general health services/ health care facilities. All Government hospitals, STD Clinics provide diagnostic and therapeutic services to the patients as well as provide costly antibiotics without any charge to deserving patients. Treatment facilities are also available in the Skin and STD Departments of the Medical Colleges and Hospitals and medicines are also provided free of cost to the patients attending these clinics.

Drugs under National Health Programme

2937. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 343 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from the diseases indicated mental health, STD, Diabetes and AIDS are also covered under National Health Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have identified the drugs required for the control of diseases under National Health Programme;

(c) whether drugs required for the control of these diseases have been covered; and

(d) if so, names of those drugs and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Category I list of essential drugs which comprises drugs required for diseases covered under National Health Programme has not yet been finalised.

Exemption of drugs control role to the vitamin based tonics

2938. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of vitamin based tonics have been exempted from drug rules as food supplements;

(b) whether it is also a fact that public are cheated by their claims and high prices; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to protect the public from the evils of these products which are not tested before the release for human consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) All vitamin based tonics making therapeutic claims are considered as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the Rules thereunder. All other tonics marketed as food supplements which do not make therapeutic claims art not covered under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the Rules made thereunder.